



# ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT Community Report



**REDUCE CRIME - INCREASE SOLVE RATE - IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE**

## *From The Chief*

Chief Chet Epperson

Dear Citizens of Rockford;

Welcome to the Rockford Police Department's second Community Report. This report serves as a communicational tool to inform the citizens of Rockford on the work, initiatives, and changes within the department.

The report is one more component of our Community Policing initiative. Our department is transitioning well and we are making improvements with our movement toward Problem Oriented Policing.

Our department will continue to strive and meet the needs of the citizens by hearing your concerns and applying the best methods to lessen crime in the City of Rockford. Our officers and support staff strive to deliver Excellence in Services for all.

Thank you,

## Promotions

**Fall 2007**

On October 5, 2007, The Rockford Police Department held a ceremony to promote three of their own. Rene Pittz (far right) was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in charge of the night shift of the Patrol Division. Mark Jacobi (center) and Eric Bruno (far left) were both promoted to the rank of sergeant. Both Sgt. Jacobi and Sgt. Bruno have been assigned to the day shift of the Patrol Division.

Lt. Pittz is a 27-year veteran of the Rockford Police Department. Her most current assignment was as a sergeant assigned to the daytime patrol shift. Lt. Pittz also served as supervisor of the former Rockford Housing Authority Unit as well as a Detective in the Investigative Services Bureau of the Rockford Police Department.

Sgt. Jacobi is a 16-year veteran of the Rockford Police Department. His most recent assignment was as an investigator in the Traffic Division.



Sgt. Bruno is a 15-year veteran of the Rockford Police Department. His most recent assignment was in the violent crimes division of the Rockford Police Department Investigative Services Bureau.

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## Illegal Sound Amplification

The City of Rockford has put into effect a new city ordinance to help combat one of the top concerns of its citizens. Loud music from vehicles is a major quality of life issue in Rockford.

### **City Ordinance, Sec. 17-3.1. Radios, Phonographs, etc. on the public way.**

- (1) On the public way; or
- (2) In any motor vehicle on the public way;

And the sound can be heard from 75 feet or more from the device. This section does not apply to authorized emergency vehicles. This section does not apply when the device is being operated solely to request assistance or warn of a hazardous condition.

“Public way” means all streets, alleys, sidewalks, boulevard, public parking lots and other public rights-of-way.

The minimum fine for a violation of this section shall be set forth in section 17-3.2 of this code for each offense.

**Offending vehicles are subject to impound at the owners expense. The fee to release the vehicle is subject to increase depending on number of offenses in a 2-year period.**

### **Purpose**

- ☐ To reduce or eliminate the nuisance noise from motor vehicles on the public way.
- ☐ This ordinance is in response to complaints from citizens.
- ☐ This is one of the top three complaints from citizens.







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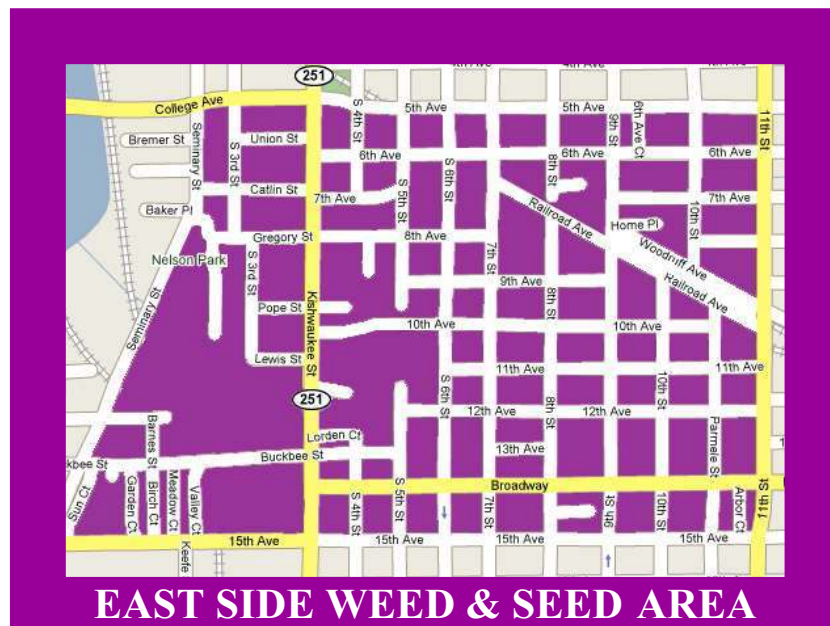
## East Side Weed & Seed

In October of 2007, the City of Rockford targeted a new area on the east side (below) of Rockford for the highly successful Weed & Seed Program. Weed & Seed is a community-based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. It is an innovative, comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization.

Weed and Seed is foremost a strategy—rather than a grant program—that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country.

The strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" violent criminals and drug abusers and public agencies and community-based private organizations collaborate to "seed" much-needed human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs. A community-oriented policing component bridges the weeding and seeding elements.

The City of Rockford implemented the Weed & Seed Program in October of 2005 on the cities west side. The program has been very successful in reducing crime in the area, thus improving the quality of life for the residents. It is the goal of the City of Rockford to continue this success on the cities east side.



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## **Neighborhood Watch Program**

The Neighborhood Watch Program is a highly successful effort that has been in existence for more than thirty years in cities and counties across the United States. It provides a unique infrastructure that brings together local officials, law enforcement and citizens to protect and improve our communities.

There are over 30 active Neighborhood Associations in the City of Rockford at this time.

If you would like more information on the Neighborhood Watch Program, please contact the Community Services Unit at 987-5041 or the Neighborhood Network at 987-5599

**Starting a Neighborhood Watch means getting and staying involved!**

**Help keep your neighborhood safe.**



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## Police on Your Street

This past summer the Rockford Police Department in partnership with the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois and the Rockford Park District launched the “Police on Your Street” Program.

The goal of the program was to reach out to the youth of Rockford in a positive manner. The Police Department visited five areas of the city and displayed their K9 Unit, Mobile Command Vehicle, as well equipment from the departments bomb squad.

Refreshments and goodies were provided to the children who attended the events. I.D. kits were made available to parents. The program was well received by the community, and it is the hope of the department to continue it next summer.



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## Community Services Unit

Sergeant Marc Welsh has been assigned as the supervisor for the Rockford Police Departments Community Services Unit. Below is Contact information for sergeant Welsh, as well each community services officer.

**SGT. MARC WELSH**  
**987-5041**

 **OFFICER JASON MALLO**  
**987-8277**

 **OFFICER MATTHEW GIBBONS**  
**987-8276**

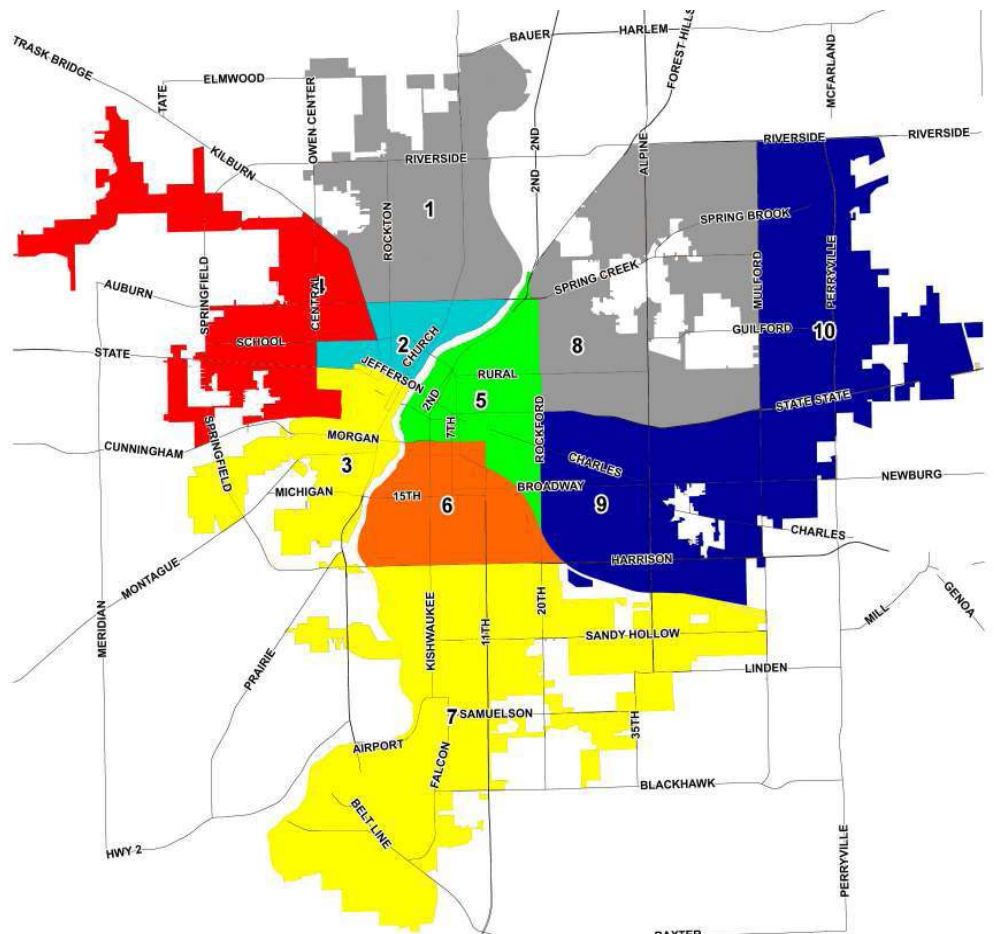
 **OFFICER CARLA REDD**  
**987-8274**

 **OFFICER JOE CALTAGERONE**  
**987-8273**

 **OFFICER ELIZABETH HUGHES**  
**967-6715**

 **OFFICER MATTHEW KRANTZ**  
**967-6718**

 **OFFICER JOEL SMITH**  
**987-8275**



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# ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT Community Report

**ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Reduce Crime - Increase Solve Rate - Improve Quality of Life**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Rockford Police Department is to provide for the safety and welfare of the citizens of Rockford so they may enjoy the benefits of being secure in their person, property and state of mind through law enforcement, peace preservation, crime prevention, traffic control, and civil rights and liberties.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

It is our vision to maintain and enhance the confidence and trust of those we serve, while continually expanding and strengthening our partnership with the people of Rockford and the employees of this Department, in identifying problems, developing solutions and establishing realistic priorities and policies.

## **VALUES**

INTEGRITY  
RESPECT  
SERVICE  
FAIRNESS

## **City of Rockford Police Department Contact Information**

Administration 815-987-5839  
420 West State Street 61101

Non-Emergency  
966-2900

Emergency  
911

Web Site  
[www.rockfordil.gov](http://www.rockfordil.gov)

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